processing sector has been worked out. However, in order to invite foreign investment in textile manufacturing including textile processing sector several measures have been announced in the New Industrial Policy on 24.7.91. Further, to motivate the industry to go in for modernisation of the processing sector, the Govt. had reduced the customs duty on import of specified items of capital goods for the processing sector from 25% to 10% in the Budget 1996-97.

[English]

Production and Export of Turmeric

5778. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 80 per cent of the total production of turmeric of the world produced in the country;

(b) whether quality requirements of turmeric in developed countries are changing day by day; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to educate the growt of turmeric and its exporters about its quality needs in he foreign countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMRCE (SHRI BOLL BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) India is the largest producer of turmeric in the world. Data on the world production of turmeric is not available.

(b) The quality requirements of all food ingrediants including turmeric, undergo modifications on accounts of changes in consumer preferences and health standards.

(c) Some of the measures taken to educate the growers/ exporters about the quality requirements are :

(i) regular training of farmers/exporters on the quality standards laid down by importing countries;

(ii) supply of inputs at subsidised rates for post harvest handling and cleaning;

(iii) extending financial assistance for construction of warehouses and drying yards;

(iv) educating farmers throug distribution of booklets, handbooks, posters etc. (printed in regional languages) on hygenic practices to be adopted for processing, cleaning, storage etc;

(v) training of exporters on improved methods of packaging handling and storage to ensure quality of export produce;

(vi) arranging interaction of exporters with growers to bring about changes in quality stipulations as demanded by the buying countries;

(vii) sponsoring quality/laboratory personnel for training in laboratories abroad on analytical methods.

Direct Foreign Investment

5779. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign investment proposals cleared by the Union Government during the current year till June 30, 1996 and the amount of foreign investment involve therein;

(b) the manner in which it compares with foreign investment proposals approved during the corresponding period in 1994 and 1995;

(c) whether the Government consider the level of foreign investment in the country to be sufficient ; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to encourage more foreign investment in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The number of Foreign Direct Investment proposals cleared and the amount of foreign direct investment envisaged therein during the period from January, 1996 to June, 1996, and for the corresponding period in 1994 and 1995, are as under :

Year	No. of Proposal approved	Amount of foreign direct investment (Rs. in crores)
1994	439	2454.44
1995	581	7716.09
1996	619	11719.43

(c) and (d). After the announcement of New Industrial Policy, the trend in foreign investment is satisfactory. To further augment the foreign direct investment into the country, various incentives have been announced by the Government such as revamping the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) and constituting the Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC), capital subsidy, sales tax exemption, power subsidy, allotment of land on priority, setting up of growth centre and transport subsidy in hilly areas.

Jute Cess Fund

5780. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of jute cess fund collected during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent on research and development activities relating to the jute industry during the above period;

.(c) whethe rthe Government propose to make available more funds for research and development activities in jute industry in addition to the jute cess fund; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The figures of cess collected on jute manufactures during last three years were as follows :

Year	cess collected
1993-94	Rs. 1773 lakhs
1994-95	Rs. 1692 lakhs
1995-96	Rs. 1254 lakhs

(b) No amount has been spent on R&D relating to jute industry during the above period from the Cess Fund.

(c) and (d). Government is funding, *inter-alia*, R&D activities under the UNDP assisted national Jute Development Programme in the fields of packaging, ploymerio finishing of jute, jute textiles & non textiles, jute blended yarn, multicomponent yarn from jute, wool and other fibres jute blending in open spinning system, non woven carpets from jute, jute fibre, jute sticks & whole jute stalks for newsprint & paper making.

Tax Dues on Multinational Companies

5781. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of multinational companies are having arrears of various tax dues to the Government alongwith the details;

(b) the steps taken or propose to be taken by Government to recover the tax dues;

(c) the number of cases of evasion of tax have been found so far; and

(d) the action is being contemplated against these tax evaders ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Domestic Supply and Export of Tea by Multinational Companies

5782. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the share of value added tea exports out of total tea exported during each of the last three years;

(b) the share of the Export Promotion Zone (EPZ) units in value added tea exported by the multinational companies; and

(c) the total share in domestic supply and value added tea export turnover of these multinational companies during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Information available with the Tea Board about total tea exports and value added tea exports in the last three years are as under :

(Qty. Mn. Kgs.)(Value : Rs. Crores)

Year	Total Exports of tea		Exports of Value added tea	
	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.
1993-94	154.55	1062.06	67.05	500.86
1994-95	152.16	986.41	54.37	395.05
1995-96	163.65	1191.19	84.22	647.10

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Registration of New Companies

5783. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of companies registered by the Registrar of Companies in the country during each of the last three years till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of applications pending with the Registrar of Companies for the registration of new companies, State-wise; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken for the expeditious disposal of these applications ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The number of companies registered by the Registrar of Companies in the various States/Uts. during the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (till August, 96) and the number of applications pending for registration are given in the Statement attached.

(c) The offices of the Registrars of Companies (ROCs) have been computerised for providing expeditious services to the corporate sector. With the introduction of this facility, the time taken by ROCs in registration of new companies has been considerably reduced. Disposal of the pending applications is also dependent upon the companies having filed complete applications with all information/documents as required under the Companies Act, 1956.